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not have materially changed the conclusions, but it would have immensely strengthened the authority of the work. It is therefore to be hoped that this defect will be remedied in a second edition.

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*Histoire du Commerce de la France. Première Partie: avant 1789.* By EMILE LEVASSEUR. (Paris: A. Rousseau. 1911. Pp. xxxiii, 611. 12.50 fr.)

On the reverse of Professor Levasseur's title page is printed a list of his chief works now on sale, which omits many substantial books from his pen, but comprises, nevertheless, sixteen volumes in the fields of economic history, geography, political economy and education. More than fifty years have passed since the publication, in 1854, of his *Recherches Historiques sur le Système de Law*, and the present volume is but the beginning of a new work, as it is to be followed by a companion volume which is already partly prepared. Such activity we may well admire, and for its products we must be grateful; yet we must feel regret that the author has been too busy with his writing to consider what other people were thinking, and that in method and in the quality of its contributions this last book differs scarcely, if at all, from his first. It contains much information about the history of the commerce of France, but it offers little that is new; it does not answer the questions on which scholars of the subject are now pondering, and, indeed, scarcely recognizes their existence.

The narrative begins in the neolithic period, but moves swiftly until the author reaches the Renaissance; and a full half of the book is devoted to the period of Louis XIV and to the eighteenth century. The author describes chiefly incidents in the history of commerce, but allows himself frequent digressions into the fields of industrial, social and political history. He covers many topics in commercial history more extensively than he had done in his *Histoire des Classes Ouvrières*, yet he makes no clear distinction between the content of the two books, and, in fact, refers the reader sometimes to his earlier book on the working classes for details of the history of commerce.

He contributes very little from manuscript sources, and does not even give references to the secondary authorities on which he bases his narrative. The bibliography, covering seven pages

at the end of the book, betrays Professor Levasseur's weakness. He calls it, in his preface, "une liste sommaire, non de tous les textes que j'ai dépouillés, mais de livres publiés sur la matière qui peurent le plus utilement être consultés par les écrivains qui se proposeraient de l'étudier après moi"; and it is, distinctly, not even that. It appears to be merely a list of the books which the author has found it convenient to use, in cheerful disregard of others which would have modified their statement of fact or conclusion. It includes such present-day curiosities as Cibrario and Scherer, while it omits such studies as those by Guilmoto, Huvelin, Pauliat and Dahlgren, to cite merely names of authors who have written in French on French commerce; it omits practically all the writings by foreigners on French commerce; and, finally, it gives no hint of the existence of those studies in economic history which have been inspired by German scholarship, and which in form are often confined to German topics, but which have in fact transformed the study of the subject in all its fields, and which make the present book seem antiquated when it leaves the press.

CLIVE DAY.

*Yale University.*

*Die Bergarbeiter. Historische Darstellung der Bergarbeiter Verhältnisse von der ältesten bis in die neueste Zeit.* By OTTO HUE. Volume I. (Stuttgart: J. H. W. Dietz Nachfolger. 1910. Pp. viii, 455.)

The publication of this book is a testimonial to the great educational work done by organized labor in Germany. The author, member of the German Parliament, was engaged by the National Committee of the Union of Mine Workers to write a history of labor in the mining industry. The outcome has been a thorough-going study, in a very readable form, of the evolution of the mining industry and of the mine workers, of their economic condition and legal status, from the earliest days of history to the dawn of the capitalistic period. This is to be followed by a second volume which will deal with the condition of the miners under capitalism.

The mining industry up to the nineteenth century was confined to the extraction of the precious and base metals. In Egypt,